

**Anderson, Maggie D.**

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**From:** Downey, Brian (Finance-Rep) [Brian\_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2010 2:36 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Maggie D.  
**Cc:** Mandigo, Tove E.; Holzworth, Brenda K.  
**Subject:** A Letter from Ranking Member Charles E. Grassley  
**Attachments:** 2010-04-21 Letter to North Dakota Medicaid.pdf

**Importance:** High

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

Please find attached a letter from Senator Grassley. Please confirm receipt, thank you.

Sincerely,

Brian M. Downey  
Investigative Assistant  
U.S. Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC  
Senator Charles E. Grassley  
(P) 202-224-4515

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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

April 21, 2010

## Via Electronic Transmission

Maggie D. Anderson  
Director  
North Dakota Division of Medical Services  
State of North Dakota  
600 E. Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Director Anderson:

In the United States, the federal and state governments spend roughly \$317 billion every year on the Medicaid program. As Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Finance, I have an obligation to ensure that taxpayer dollars are appropriately spent on federal health care programs. Like the Medicare program, Medicaid suffers from systemic weaknesses that lead to fraud, waste, and abuse across the program, resulting in higher costs and less health care to those who are in need. The overutilization of prescription drugs, whether through drug abuse or outright fraud, plays a significant role in the rising cost of our healthcare system. The purpose of this letter is to request information regarding certain outliers in North Dakota's Medicaid program and what steps North Dakota takes to monitor rates of utilization.

In recent inquiries, I have asked the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services about physicians prescribing mental health drugs at astonishingly high rates. In addition to these concerns, a recent CNN report detailed the increasing abuse of OxyContin, Roxicodone, and Xanax. Specifically, the report described the role some pain management clinics and physicians play in the black market for these drugs. I write today to better ascertain how high rates of both mental health and pain medication utilization are affecting the Medicaid program, as well as how North Dakota's rates compare to the national rates.

To that end, please provide charts that list of the top ten Medicaid prescribers of the following drugs for the years 2008 and 2009. For each prescriber, please provide his/her prescriber identifier, and the number of prescriptions written per drug per year, and the total amount billed to Medicaid per drug, separated for each year.

- Ahilify; ✓
- Geodon; ✓
- Seroquel; ✓
- Zyprexa; ✓

- Risperdal; ✓
- OxyContin; ✓
- Roxicodone; and ✓
- Xanax. ✓

I thank you in advance for your cooperation and request that you provide the requested documents and written responses by no later than May 5, 2010. In your reply, please format information into a chart like the examples provided below. All formal correspondence should be sent electronically in PDF format to [Brian\\_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov](mailto:Brian_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov) or via facsimile to (202) 228-2131. Of course should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact Christopher Armstrong of my Committee staff at (202) 224-4515.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member

Attachment

**Drug X, 2008**

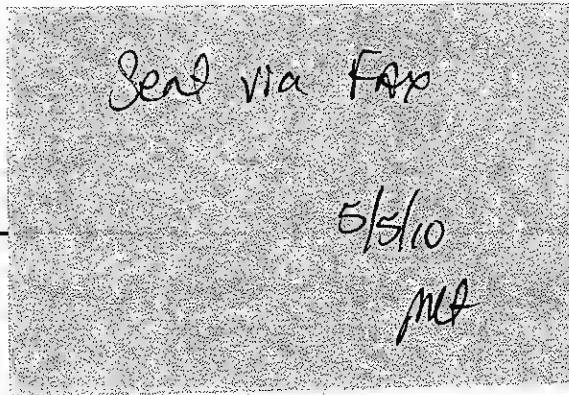
Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Total billed to Medicaid
123456789	25,000	250,000
234567891	24,000	240,000
345678912	23,000	230,000
456789123	22,000	220,000
567891234	21,000	210,000
678912345	20,000	200,000
789123456	19,000	190,000
891234567	18,000	180,000
912345678	17,000	170,000
012345678	16,000	160,000

**Drug X, 2009**

Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Total billed to Medicaid
123456789	25,000	250,000
234567891	24,000	240,000
345678912	23,000	230,000
456789123	22,000	220,000
567891234	21,000	210,000
678912345	20,000	200,000
789123456	19,000	190,000
891234567	18,000	180,000
912345678	17,000	170,000
012345678	16,000	160,000



John Hoeven, Governor  
Carol K. Olson, Executive Director



**Medical Services**  
(701) 328-2321  
Toll Free 1-800-755-2604  
Fax (701) 328-1544  
ND Relay TTY 1-800-366-6888  
Provider Relations (701) 328-4030

May 5, 2010

Senator Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
United States Senate  
Committee on Finance  
Washington DC 20510-6200

Re: North Dakota Medicaid – Top 10 Medicaid Prescribers of Requested Drugs


Honorable Senator Grassley:

North Dakota is providing the enclosed information in response to your request for the top 10 Medicaid prescribers of certain drugs. We hope this information will allow you and the Committee on Finance to analyze nationwide data on mental health and pain medication utilization within the Medicaid program.

North Dakota Medicaid does not have any managed care, so all utilization was through our fee for service program. Physician identifiers are National Provider Identifier (NPI) numbers.

If there are any questions about the data, please contact the North Dakota Medicaid Pharmacy Administrator, Brendan Joyce, at 701-328-4023 or [bjoyce@nd.gov](mailto:bjoyce@nd.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Maggie D. Anderson, Director  
Medical Services Division

BJ/mlt

Enclosure

North Dakota Department of Human Services  
Medical Services Division

<b>Abilify, 2008</b>		
Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Amount paid
1851352504	339	\$101,248.77
1871537498	107	\$51,448.51
1396809919	93	\$49,502.92
1124064431	93	\$23,331.17
1972544708	84	\$37,202.03
1952359903	80	\$38,820.38
1386681682	80	\$28,460.27
1104042092	79	\$22,330.82
1831280635	70	\$23,827.69
1730271859	68	\$14,317.16

<b>Abilify, 2009</b>		
Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Amount paid
1851352504	296	\$62,289.33
1396809919	116	\$61,004.66
1972544708	115	\$56,997.14
1124064431	103	\$24,742.91
1255434874	100	\$30,938.18
1952359903	91	\$39,375.51
1740382456	90	\$37,073.69
1851334858	86	\$41,066.82
1104042092	85	\$23,990.10
1831280841	80	\$22,421.48

<b>Geodon, 2008</b>		
Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Amount paid
1972544708	174	\$56,148.44
1568403772	106	\$28,407.14
1871537498	90	\$32,159.42
1386681682	89	\$40,818.92
1053338749	62	\$20,730.65
1851352504	50	\$9,668.07
1770697203	48	\$12,017.61
1396809919	47	\$14,657.38
1124128608	43	\$14,960.48
1861590507	43	\$11,643.36

<b>Geodon, 2009</b>		
Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Amount paid
1972544708	149	\$53,286.60
1568403772	90	\$25,132.66
1871537498	83	\$34,548.21
1053338749	64	\$21,021.21
1538234455	59	\$9,436.17

North Dakota Department of Human Services  
Medical Services Division

1386681682	58	\$30,376.00
1861590507	49	\$16,958.91
1457395691	48	\$19,694.38
1851352504	47	\$5,462.48
1013000108	36	\$13,060.81

<b>Seroquel, 2008</b>		
Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Amount paid
1972544708	264	\$96,360.73
1871537498	215	\$57,533.94
1386681682	208	\$78,556.79
1215982319	184	\$22,704.56
1952359903	169	\$39,260.71
1104042092	139	\$23,684.49
1831280635	127	\$18,298.73
1285664169	125	\$16,403.14
1124128608	119	\$23,598.27
1851334858	119	\$18,606.56

<b>Seroquel, 2009</b>		
Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Amount paid
1871537498	282	\$77,983.85
1972544708	208	\$82,197.46
1952359903	183	\$56,087.76
1104042092	179	\$25,967.80
1851334858	158	\$23,715.47
1861590507	157	\$33,959.39
1568403772	124	\$53,380.47
1053338749	106	\$36,165.27
1255434874	103	\$18,323.53
1396809919	99	\$36,699.37

<b>Zyprexa, 2008</b>		
Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Amount paid
1871537498	188	\$101,648.19
1770697203	143	\$83,371.48
1972544708	89	\$44,398.29
1598705758	64	\$12,422.92
1851352504	64	\$9,242.59
1114025855	57	\$35,568.89
1386681682	57	\$25,102.24
1851334858	49	\$23,465.56
1538115712	45	\$20,280.62
1831280635	45	\$16,313.03

<b>Zyprexa, 2009</b>		
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Medical Services Division

Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Amount paid
1871537498	141	\$66,747.84
1457395691	101	\$87,545.42
1851334858	98	\$57,801.93
1972544708	74	\$45,941.86
1740382456	61	\$22,049.42
1396809919	61	\$14,732.14
1588693253	53	\$40,850.04
1851352504	53	\$7,810.68
1821174178	48	\$24,497.15
1598705758	45	\$13,316.04

<b>Risperdal, 2008</b>		
	brand and generic	
Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Amount paid
1861590507	431	\$73,476.47
1598705758	277	\$29,111.84
1831280635	228	\$43,426.63
1972544708	226	\$65,119.31
1851334858	197	\$37,174.21
1770697203	187	\$33,852.00
1386681682	147	\$44,929.03
1871537498	147	\$62,004.32
1568403772	138	\$38,623.26
1124064431	132	\$22,803.25

<b>Risperdal, 2009</b>		
	brand and generic	
Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Amount paid
1861590507	390	\$17,626.36
1851334858	266	\$16,792.95
1598705758	226	\$12,135.08
1831280635	186	\$8,733.35
1821174178	173	\$9,358.55
1457395691	157	\$6,216.89
1568403772	157	\$23,814.88
1922145309	152	\$10,853.23
1124064431	124	\$4,968.98
1578617700	117	\$5,005.03

<b>Oxycontin, 2008</b>		
Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Amount paid
1275561102	66	\$14,009.35
1710099114	48	\$16,488.33
1629143169	46	\$7,875.85
1275631376	43	\$3,919.66
1053419861	42	\$8,534.74
1942308614	41	\$6,948.22



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Medical Services Division

1326145483	40	\$6,050.04
1013999572	39	\$8,246.15
1386681682	39	\$19,326.19
1548287634	38	\$5,926.09

<b>Oxycontin, 2009</b>		
Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Amount paid
1275561102	70	\$20,660.27
1013999572	44	\$8,537.86
1275631376	41	\$4,797.97
1053422097	31	\$9,340.54
1972521524	28	\$14,432.26
1861474017	25	\$2,864.27
1366639213	25	\$5,235.37
1538180765	23	\$10,661.43
1164512034	23	\$7,254.55
1114024999	20	\$8,108.18

<b>Roxicodone, 2008</b>		
Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Amount paid
1548287634	53	\$1,282.66
1629143169	51	\$1,107.81
1538180765	40	\$2,868.94
1053422097	38	\$597.63
1710099114	37	\$1,013.77
1013934785	37	\$670.83
1841299047	25	\$466.65
1013935782	25	\$400.75
1487631032	25	\$1,353.82
1235166323	25	\$222.41

<b>Roxicodone, 2009</b>		
Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Amount paid
1013935782	59	\$1,421.40
1184798746	51	\$1,929.61
1538180765	40	\$3,923.10
1487631032	37	\$2,731.64
1659446730	26	\$437.78
1942308614	24	\$1,487.89
1003980475	20	\$326.00
1235166323	19	\$192.66
1861425472	19	\$228.39
1659398329	18	\$670.89

<b>Xanax, 2008</b>		
Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Amount paid

North Dakota Department of Human Services  
Medical Services Division

1386681682	411	\$4,313.56
1053338749	130	\$1,504.00
1568403772	113	\$1,065.33'
1598788390	89	\$833.78
1427057231	86	\$772.33
1871537498	84	\$951.19
1487631032	78	\$486.91
1386625960	77	\$679.92
1770697203	75	\$712.14
1245327899	72	\$788.70

<b>Xanax, 2009</b>		
Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Amount paid
1316986649	214	\$1,511.42
1386681682	212	\$2,554.33
1053338749	136	\$1,550.82
1972544708	113	\$881.16
1871537498	99	\$1,131.48,
1568403772	95	\$948.25
1366639213	91	\$746.56
1598788390	90	\$813.76
1194745133	84	\$610.22
1750333894	73	\$492.29